

Appl. No. 10/676,553  
Amdt. Dated May 5, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2005

### REMARKS

Initially, Applicants' attorney wishes to thank Examiner Elve for her courtesy in granting a recent interview and in making suggestions for clarification of the novel subject matter of the captioned application.

As was pointed out during the interview, the present invention is one which is intended to facilitate servicing of the laser cutting head by providing a well supported laser cutting installation which enables the laser unit to be brought to a point adjacent to the outer end of the workpiece support table so that the operator can readily access the laser cutting unit and the internal laser cutting head. In the overall installation, there is a frame with a rail support on the underside of an overhead arm, and the motion unit is mounted on the rails adjacent its midline. The laser cutting unit is movably mounted on rails or guides on the bottom of the motion unit so that it can be moved outwardly to the outer end of the motion unit and work support where the operator can readily access the cutting head which is within the cutting unit. The cutting head is usually mounted within the cutting unit by a clamp or similar structure and thus be readily accessed and removed by the operator who can stand at the outer end of the workpiece support and reach the cutting head through the open end of the cutting unit housing. Thus, replacement is easy and rapid.

None of the prior art patents discloses such a structure, although prior machines have employed structures which provided a movable support with a movable cutting unit with a movable cutting head supported thereon.

Puozzo et al has an assembly in which an arm is cantilevered from the side of the frame support member and the laser carriage is movably mounted on the side of the arm.

Applicants' motion unit is mounted adjacent its mid-point on the lower surface of the support structure to obtain desirable stiffness for a precision cutting installation, and the laser cutting unit or carriage is movably mounted on the lower surface of the motion unit. The cutting unit is movable to a position adjacent the outer end of the workpiece support table where it is easily accessed by the operator standing next to the support table.

In Klingel, the laser cutting unit is mounted on a movable bridge and certainly is not suspended from a rail as is the case in Applicants' structure. Although the laser carriage may be movable along the length of the bridge, it certainly does not move to an outer end where it would be readily accessible to the operator.

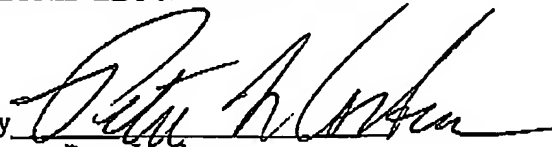
There are other obvious differences between the structural assembly defined in the amended claims and the structures disclosed by Puozzo and Klingel.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims clearly define a novel and unobvious laser machine tool installation, and early allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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